

## Message Text

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53

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 SAM-01 ACDA-05 SAB-01 /076 W

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P 261154Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2060

USMISSION USUN PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

USIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 2816

BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD

USIA FOR INA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN SY, GE

SUBJ: SYG WALDHEIM VISIT TO SYRIAN AND UNDOF RENEWAL

1. SUMMARY: SYRIAN RADIO, TV AND TV AND NEWSPAPERS GAVE  
PROMINENT COVERAGE TO VISIT BY SEC GEN WALDHEIM ON NOV 25.  
COVERAGE WAS FACTUAL -- ARRIVAL STATEMENTS, ANNOUNCEMENT OF  
MEETING WITH PRESIDENT ASAD, OTHER EVENTS, ETC. ONLY  
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REFERENCE TO UNDOF WAS PRESS QUESTION REGARDING ITS EXTEN-

SION WHICH WALDHEIM REFUSED TO DISCUSS UNTIL AFTER HIS MEETINGS WITH SARG. DAMASCUS CIRCLES REPORT SARG WILL RENEW UNDOF BECAUSE OF VLADIVOSTOCK COMMUNIQUE WHICH CALLS FOR EARLY CONVENING OF GENEVA CONFERENCE. END SUMMARY.

2. SYRIAN MEDIA, INCLUDING ALL IMPORTANT RADIO AND TV, HAVE GIVEN PROMINENT COVERAGE OF ONE-DAY VISIT OF SYG WALDHEIM NOV 25. COVERAGE MOST NOTEWORTHY FOR ITS STRAIGHT PLAY, I.Z., ABSENCE OF ANY EDITORIALIZATION IN ARTICLES. ON ARRIVAL WALDHEIM SAID VISIT WAS TO EXCHANGE VIEWPOINTS WITH SARG ON CURRENT SITUATION IN ME AS WELL AS TO DISCUSS QUESTIONS RELATED TO DISENGAGEMENT OF FORCES. WALDHEIM WAS ASKED ABOUT SYRIAN INTENTIONS TOWARD UNDOF AND REFUSED TO COMMENT UNTIL AFTER HIS TALKS. HE SAID, HOWEVER, THAT HE BELIEVED THE DISENGAGEMENT OF FORCES WAS "HELPFUL FACTOR" IN REACHING PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT IN ME.

3. OFFICIAL STATEMENT AS PUBLISHED HERE AFTER MEETING WITH PRESIDENT ASAD SAID ONLY THAT TWO DISCUSSED ME SITUATION AND PRESENT DEVELOPMENTS, AND THEY EXCHANGED OPINIONS ON "MEANS OF REACTIVATING EFFORTS AT FORTHCOMING STAGE."

4. COMMENT: WHILE THERE HAS BEEN NO WORD FROM SARG ON RENEWAL OF UNDOF, DAMASCUS RIFE WITH RUMORS THAT IT IS ONLY MATTER OF TIME. FOR EXAMPLE, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY AWARE FROM LOCAL STRINGER OF AFP THAT "HIGH-RANKING SYRIAN OFFICIAL" (REPORTEDLY MINISTER OF INFORMATION AHMAD ISKANDAR AHMAD) HAS SAID SARG WILLING RENEW UNDOF MANDATE. THIS OFFICIAL ALSO REPORTEDLY SAID THAT THIS ACTION POSSIBLE IN VIEW OF VLADIVOSTOCK COMMUNIQUE CALLING FOR EARLY RESUMPTION OF GENEVA CONF (IMPORTANT SARG INTEREST), GAINS MADE BY PALESTINIANS AT UNGA, AND SYRIAN DESIRE TO FACILITATE VISIT SYG WALDHEIM. LANGUAGE IN VLADIVOSTOCK COMMUNIQUE REGARDING EARLY RESUMPTION OF GENEVA CONFERENCE IS RECEIVING PARTICULARLY WIDESPREAD ATTENTION. FRENCH EMBOFF TELLS US SYRIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY SEES THIS LANGUAGE AS MOVE TOWARD SYRIAN POSITION.  
MURPHY

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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
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**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <07 MAY 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <19-Nov-2002 by MorefiRH>  
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30 JUN 2005

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**Review Referrals:** n/a  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
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**TAGS:** PFOR, SY, GC, UN, (WALDHEIM, KURT)  
**To:** STATE USUN NEW YORK  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005